

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A hair growth tonic containing as an active ingredient, culture filtrate of lactic acid bacteria obtained by:

culturing said lactic acid bacteria in culture solution;

crushing cellular walls of said lactic acid bacteria in the culture solution obtained by said culture of the lactic acid bacteria; and

removing the residue of said lactic acid bacteria after making the crushed walls into colloid or dissolving them, wherein

~~a known other hair growth component~~ laurel extract and/or chlorophyll is added to obtain said hair growth tonic after diluting said filtrate with a carrier.

9. (previously presented) A hair growth tonic according to claim 8, wherein said carrier comprises one or more additives selected from the group consisting of purified water, ordinary water, physiological saline, and ethanol.

10. (currently amended) A hair growth tonic according to claim 8, wherein both said ~~known other hair growth component comprises at least one of~~ laurel extract and chlorophyll are present.

11. (currently amended) A hair growth tonic for application to the head to stimulate the growth of hair, consisting essentially of \_\_\_\_\_ a concentration sufficient for stimulating hair growth of an extract of crushed cellular walls of a lactic acid producing bacteria as active ingredient, and \_\_\_\_\_ ~~optionally~~ at least one of chlorophyll and a laurel extract, \_\_\_\_\_ said hair growth tonic being substantially free of metal ions.

12. (previously presented) The hair growth tonic of claim 11, wherein said lactic acid producing bacteria is *Streptococcus thermophilus*, *Streptococcus lactis*, *Streptococcus lactis subsp. Diacetylactis*, *Pediococcus cerevisiae*, *Pediococcus acidilactici*, *Pediococcus penntosaceus*, *Pediococcus halophilus*, *Pediococcus urinae-equi*, *Leuconostoc cremoris*, *Leuconostoc oenos*, *Lactobacillus delbrueckii*, *Lactobacillus leuchmannii*, *Lactobacillus lactis*, *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*, *Lactobacillus helveticus*,

*Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Lactobacillus brevis*, *Lactobacillus viridescens*, *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium breve*, and *Bifidobacterium infantis*.

13. (previously presented) The hair growth tonic of claim 11, wherein said lactic acid producing bacteria is *Streptococcus lactis* or *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*.

14. (currently amended) The hair growth tonic of claim 11, wherein both ~~at least one~~ of said chlorophyll and laurel extract ~~is~~ are present.

15. (new) A hair growth tonic for application to the head to stimulate the growth of hair, consisting of  
a concentration sufficient for stimulating hair growth of an extract of crushed cellular walls of a lactic acid producing bacteria as active ingredient, at least one of chlorophyll and a laurel extract, a liquid carrier, and

optionally at least one component which is a blood flow promoter, a local stimulant which is capable of promoting blood flow to peripheral capillaries, a nutrient preparation, a female hormone having antagonistic action against a male hormone, a hair root activator, a moisturizer, a pharmaceutical agent capable of treating dandruff and itchiness, an anti-seborrhea agent, and anti-inflammatory agent, a perfume, a freshener, an emulsifier, a solubilizing

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agent, a pH regulatory agent, a coloring agent, or a mixture  
of two or more of said optional components.